Aircrafts lost in accidetns

816. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Air crafts, I.A.F. has lost during last five years, other than in war with Pakistan; and

(b) whether the I.A.F. is taking steps to bring down the accident rates?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) From 1995-96 till end November, 1999 the Indian Air Force has lost 106 aircrafts.

(b) A High Powered Commitee on Fighter Aircrafts (COFAA) was constituted under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri to analyse the causes of the accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimise accident rate. Implementation of these recommendations involves changes in organisational structure, procedures, training, design and technology etc. Necessary instructions have been issued to the agencies / Departments concerned to take suitable action on the recommendations of the Committee. About 55 of the 84 recommendations have been implemented so far.

Role of Army in the case of Sainik Atma

†817. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of members of Tarksheel society, Punjab and Jalandhar correspondent of Dainik Jagaran have sought a clarification from Government on the role of army in respect of much talked about case of Sainik Atma; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.